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13 September 1965

BRIEFING NOTES

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- ✓ I. In Peru, the government's counter-insurgency campaign against guerrillas of the pro-Cuban Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has been indecisive during the past few weeks.
- A. Government forces are currently attempting to surround and isolate the principal guerrilla band which has been operating in east-central Junin Department. The armed forces appear to have been energetic, but the guerrillas have largely eluded them.
- B. Government security forces have conducted a series of raids on suspected MIR hideouts in the La Convencion Valley of southern Peru near Cuzco. They have also made a number of arrests in this area which have served to thwart the MIR's anticipated offensive in the south.
- II. Government handling of the guerrilla situation has stimulated opposition attacks on President Belaunde's governing alliance.

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- ✓ A. On 13 September, the entire cabinet resigned rather than appear before congress for an open debate on government policies. President Belaunde accepted the resignations of all ministers and has named Daniel Becerra de la Flor, a senator and member of Belaunde's Popular Action Party, as Prime Minister. Becerra reportedly will form a congressional cabinet--cabinet members will all be congressmen who are also members of Popular Action or the allied Christian Democrat Party.

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